

APPROVED
BOARD OF STATE HISTORY MEETING

September 11, 2008
Rio Grande Depot Board Room
1:00 – 2:30 P.M.

ATTENDANCE:

Michael Homer, chair
Martha Bradley, vice chair
Greg Thompson
Michael Winder
Ron Coleman
Maria Garciaz
Bob McPherson
Max Smith
Claudia Berry

OTHERS IN ATTENDANCE:

Korral Broschinsky, consultant
Ellen S. Kiever, Uintah County Library
Courtney Garay, The Children's Center
Karen Hansen, The Children's Center
Scott Ulbrich, The Children's Center
Jeff Nielson, AJC Architects
Mehrddad Samie, AJC Architects

EXCUSED:

Chere Romney
Scott Christensen

Staff:

Palmer DePaulis, Executive Director, Department of Community and Culture
Thom Roberts, Attorney General's Office
Phil Notarianni
Wilson Martin
Cory Jensen
Kent Powell
Kevin Jones
Lynette Lloyd

WELCOME

Michael Homer welcomed everyone to the meeting.

MINUTES OF THE AUGUST 7 BOARD MEETING/RETREAT

Max Smith made a motion to approve the August 7, 2008 minutes. Greg Thompson seconded the motion and it passed with unanimous vote.

NATIONAL REGISTER NOMINATIONS

Please refer to the following criteria:

- A) Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
- B) Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
- C) Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.

Bank of Vernal, presented by Cory Jensen

The Bank of Vernal, built in 1916, is a two-story commercial block built of brick with stylistic influences from the late Victorian and early twentieth century commercial styles. The bank building is significant under Criterion A for its association with the historical, commercial and architectural development of Vernal, Utah. As one of two major banks in the area in the first half of the twentieth century, the Bank of Vernal and other businesses housed in the building made significant contributions to the economic development of Vernal and other portions of Uintah County. The building is also significant under Criterion C as a landmark building at the busiest intersection of Vernal's historic downtown commercial district. The design of the two-part block with two primary elevations combines the Victorian Eclectic with the early twentieth-century commercial style. The building is one of the most ornate in the town's historic business district. The Bank of Vernal is particularly notable for the story of its construction. In the spring of 1916, forty tons of bricks were sent parcel post as an alternative to the high cost of freighting goods to the outpost community. As a result of "the bank sent by mail" the United States Postal Service changed nationwide regulations limiting the amount sent by parcel post. The building is locally known as the Parcel Post Bank and its story has been told in magazine and newspaper articles throughout the country. The building was listed on the Utah State Historic Register in 1973. The building's primary elevations were partially modified in the early 1960s, but restored in 1995. The property is eligible under the Multiple Property Submission, *Historic Resources of Vernal/Maeser, Utah*, with the associated contextual periods including "Early Settlement and Community Development, 1879-1929;" "Depression and World War II, 1930-1946;" and "Postwar Energy Development Boom and Bust, 1947-1985." The Bank of Vernal is a contributing historic resource in Vernal, Utah.

Michael Winder made the motion to approve the Bank of Vernal for listing on the National Register of Historic Places. Max Smith seconded the motion and it passed with unanimous vote.

Oquirrh School, presented by Cory Jensen

The Oquirrh School, constructed in 1894 and located in Salt Lake City, Utah, is locally significant under Criteria A and C, with a period of significance dating from 1894 to 1958. Under Criterion A, it is significant as a representational example of the schoolhouses constructed as a result of the education reforms and development of the public school system that accompanied Utah's campaign for statehood in the 1890s. Reforms included the consolidation of school districts, the adoption of a statewide curriculum and the construction of numerous unified schoolhouses. The Oquirrh School was one of the first to be built and as such embodies the earliest ideologies and practices of public education in Utah. Its eventual closure and adaptive reuse as an office complex reflect the decline in residential population and increasing urbanization that occurred in the heart of Salt Lake City throughout the 20th century. The Oquirrh School is also significant under Criterion C because it was one of the first public schools built in Salt Lake City and is an excellent example of late Victorian institutional architecture implementing a combination of the Romanesque and Second Renaissance Revival styles. The school can also be considered the work of a master, namely the regionally prominent architect Richard K. A. Kletting, who also designed several emblematic Utah buildings: Saltair Bathing Pavilion, the Salt Palace, and most notably the Utah State Capitol Building (NRHP listed 10/11/1978). Although Kletting designed at least ten other Salt Lake City schools between 1892 and 1912, the Oquirrh School is the only one that was not demolished as the public school system continued to grow and replace outmoded school buildings. The Oquirrh School is being

rehabilitated as part of a federal tax credit project and is a contributing historic building in Salt Lake City.

Max Smith made the motion to approve the Oquirrh School for listing on the National Register of Historic Places. Maria Garcia seconded the motion and it passed with unanimous vote.

DIVISION INITIATIVES

Michael Homer explained to the Board that Phil Notarianni was picking up Gwendolyn Wright, the keynote speaker for the History Address and Awards Presentation tonight. Wright is a professor of architecture at Columbia University and a host of the popular PBS series, "History Detectives." He handed out a division update fact sheet for the Board to review. Michael noted that the newly renovated website was launched today. The Board was encouraged to check out the new website and send comments and suggestions to staff at State History.

John Herbert, University of Utah Marriott Library and Phil Notarianni signed the task order for the digitization of State History's "Classified Photograph Collection." This collection, 33,000 images, contains the most widely-used photographs at the Research Center.

Kent Powell passed out a draft white paper in response to the *Utah Historical Quarterly* discussion at the Board retreat in August. The paper has been reviewed by the Advisory Board and staff and hopefully will become a document that is useful for the future. The intent is for the Board to review and make suggestions and consider it as an action item for the Board at the next meeting in November.

56TH STATE HISTORY ANNUAL CONFERENCE

Kent Powell passed out the pocket program and gave a brief overview of the 56th Annual State History Conference. He thanked the Board for their commitment and for chairing many of the sessions. This is the most participation ever received from the Board. The History Address and Awards Presentation will begin this evening at 6:30 at the Salt Lake City Public Library. There will be sessions all day Friday, September 12, at the Library with a reception in the evening from 6:00 to 7:00 p.m. On Saturday morning David Hart, Executive Director of the Capitol Preservation Board and Wilson Martin will conduct a tour of the Utah State Capitol Building from 10:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. The Utah Crossroads Chapter of the Oregon and California Trails Association barbeque and lecture will be held at the historic E. T. Benson Mill in Tooele County Saturday evening beginning at 5:00.

Michael Homer invited the Board to visit the exhibit, "The Art of Architecture" in the Rio Grande Depot. The two exhibits on display open doors to historic buildings through the photographic lenses that document Utah's diverse architecture. *The Rephotography of George Edward Anderson's Environmental Portraits*, by Professor Peter L. Goss, University of Utah and John Sugden: *Mid-Century Modern Man and his Architecture*, by Kirk Huffaker, Utah Heritage Foundation.

Michael Winder suggested partnering with other organizations for the Annual Conference. He is currently a member of the Board of Directors of the League of Cities and Towns. The League meets about the same time in September and has invited guest speakers that are well known historians for the past few years. The Board supported the partnership and Greg Thompson encouraged Michael Winder to pursue the idea with the League.

ADJOURN

Greg Thompson made the motion to adjourn. Claudia Berry seconded the motion and it passed with unanimous vote. Meeting adjourned at 2:30 p.m.

NEXT MEETING: NOVEMBER 20, 2008 in the Rio Grande Board Room